



## MESSAGE FROM THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

At the Department of Law, we are making a positive difference in the everyday lives of Alaskans. Each day, we address the concerns of Alaskans of all walks of life, touching on our citizens' most important needs: safety, economic opportunity, and fiscally sound, responsible government. Whatever the specific issue of the day, the basic mission that drives us is a commitment to and passion for improving the quality of life of Alaskans and our society.

This mission has four core elements:

First, we protect Alaskans. Our foremost priority is Alaskans' safety, including both their physical and financial well-being. We're putting dangerous criminals behind bars and deterring others from breaking the law. In particular, we are helping keep Alaskans safe by seeking and winning long jail terms – some of 99 years – for repeat sex offenders. We also played a critical role in developing the governor's comprehensive strategy to end Alaska's epidemic of sexual assault and domestic violence. And our efforts to protect Alaskans go far beyond criminal prosecution. We enforce the environmental laws that keep us healthy, uphold consumers' interests so that Alaskans can keep more of their hard-earned money, and work hard to save children from dangerous domestic situations.

Second, we promote economic opportunity. Much of our work involves fighting to save jobs and creating a legal framework throughout the state that promotes economic opportunity and prosperity. By litigating the Kensington Mine case all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court, the Department of Law helped preserve hundreds of well-paying jobs in Southeast. We are also fighting efforts to shut down economic activity and tie up resource development through the misuse of the Endangered Species Act by some environmental groups. And we're

using all of our legal tools to promote Outer Continental Shelf oil and gas exploration and development in an environmentally responsible and culturally sensitive way.

Third, we protect the state's fiscal integrity. The Department of Law pursues money the state and our citizens are owed, such as taxes, royalties, and other funds, while defending the state against financial liabilities in tort and other claims. We are aggressively pursuing a case against the state's former actuary for mistakes and fraud that have severely damaged our public pension systems. We are also fighting for taxes and royalties lost due to the corrosion-related shutdown of pipelines on the North Slope.

Finally, we promote good governance. A core responsibility of the Department of Law is to defend the state's laws and Constitution. We persuaded a federal court to dismiss a challenge to our Constitution's judicial selection process. We have proposed new regulations and reforms on ethics matters to help promote good governance. The department also brings its considerable expertise to bear on proposed legislation, citizens' initiatives and regulations to ensure that our government operates within the parameters of the law and our state and federal constitutions.

All of these efforts are designed to benefit Alaskans – across regions, across races, across age groups, and across a great multitude of issues.

These positive results are possible because of the quality, professionalism and commitment of the men and women of the Department of Law. I have been in public service most of my life, and the attorneys and staff of the Alaska Department of Law are as good as it gets in terms of dedicated, intelligent, and hard-working public servants.

The benefit and positive difference our attorneys and staff bring to the lives of their fellow Alaskans can be difficult to measure. In putting dangerous criminals behind bars, defending our public institutions, or ensuring that a mine remains open and productive, their contribution to Alaskans' quality of life is invaluable. In our efforts that can be quantified, such as the \$560 million the Department of Law was awarded or collected for the state last year, Alaskans receive \$10 in return for every \$1 they spend on the department. We generate an impressive return, in both tangible and intangible ways, for Alaskans' investment in their Department of Law.

The attorneys and staff at the Department of Law come to work every day with a focus on making a positive difference for Alaska. As public servants, Alaska's future is our job. It is an honor to be able to lead this outstanding group of Alaskans.



*Daniel Sullivan  
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